



# MONTICELLO MILL SITE AND MONTICELLO VICINITY PROPERTIES

Monticello, San Juan County, Utah

**Office:** Grand Junction Office

**Size:** 110 acres (0.2 square mile) (Mill Site), plus 420 Vicinity Properties in the town of Monticello and 29 peripheral properties.

**NPL Status:** Facility comprised of two individual NPL sites: the Mill Site was placed on the NPL on November 21, 1989 and the Vicinity Properties on June 10, 1986.

**Mission:** Former uranium milling operation.

## **Overview of Environmental**

**Conditions:** Soil, groundwater, and surface water contamination from radioactive mill tailings, process equipment, and milling operations. Approximately 2.4 million cubic yards of contaminated material.

**CERCLA/RCRA Remediation  
Funding in FY 98:** \$25,558,000

## **Progress in Reaching Interagency Agreement**

DOE, EPA Region VIII, and the State of Utah negotiated and signed an FFA for the Monticello Mill Site and the Vicinity Properties. This FFA, which covered both NPL sites, was executed on December 22, 1988. The May 1997 Site Management Plan establishes the overall plan for remedial actions at Monticello. Enforceable milestones were established for the submission of primary documents as defined by the FFA.

## **Specific Cost Estimates and Budgetary Proposals Involved in the Federal Facility Agreement**

Funds budgeted for environmental restoration under the FFA at the Monticello Mill Site and Vicinity Properties total \$34.3 million of appropriated funding for FY 99 and \$22.0 million for FY 00 according to the request in the President's Budget.

## **Public Comments Regarding Federal Facility Agreement**

No new public comments regarding the FFA were received in FY 98.

## **Progress in Conducting Remedial Investigations/ Feasibility Studies**

**Mill Site:** The RI/FS addressing mill tailings and peripheral properties was completed in 1990. An additional RI/FS addressing groundwater and surface water contamination and contamination of five peripheral properties (OU 3) commenced in 1992. A Phase I RI/FS Work Plan was approved by EPA and the State of Utah, and field activities were initiated. The OU 3 baseline surface water and groundwater

sampling for the OU 3 Remedial Investigation (RI) was completed and a Baseline Data Summary Report prepared in February 1994. The Draft Final OU 3 RI/FS Work Plan, Field Sampling Plan, and Quality Assurance Project Plan were submitted for regulatory review in September 1995. Soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater, and biota sampling in support of the RI was completed. It was concluded in September 1997 that an interim remedial action for surface and with a non-time critical removal action for soils and sediment along Montezuma Creek should be implemented. Soil remediation involving “hot spot” removals were commenced in Montezuma Creek Canyon during FY 98. Groundwater monitoring continues in support of a planned FS in FY 2004 (after additional monitoring subsequent to the mill site remediation).

Vicinity Properties: The RI/FS for the Vicinity Properties was completed in calendar year 1989.

### **Progress in Conducting Remedial Actions**

Mill Site: The ROD for OUs 1 and 2 of the Mill Site was signed by the EPA in August 1990 and by DOE in September 1990; construction of many key elements at OU 1 is complete. Through FY 98, the completed elements include the installation of surface water drainage control structures, including the runoff retention pond for the Mill site and contiguous peripheral properties; the repository excavation and liner installation; the offsite drainage control ditches and the liner for Pond 3; to meet Utah discharge standards, a wastewater treatment plant was installed, modified, tested, and operated to treat contaminated runoff; and, to date, 1.8 million cubic yards of contaminated tailings were hauled and placed at the repository. The OU 3 interim RA Non-Time Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) for soils and sediments along Montezuma Creek was initiated in FY 98. RA for OU 2 peripheral properties continues to be performed.

Vicinity Properties: The ROD covering the Vicinity Properties was signed by the EPA in September 1989 and by DOE in December 1989. Since the last Annual Report to Congress, remedial actions have been completed on more than 420 total properties, with only one property remaining to be remediated.

### **Enforcement Activities**

The DOE purchased emergency response equipment for San Juan County as a result of an independent assessment performed by the Utah Department of Health of DOE’s impacts on the County’s emergency response capabilities.

The DOE was fined \$40,000 for a 1995 release of contaminated water from retention ponds. Fine was paid in FY 98.